

The conquests of Chinggis Khan in the thirteenth century marked the beginning of the establishment of the Mongol Empire in Eurasia. As rulers, the Mongols became known for their adaptability and openness to the customs and practices of most of the people they governed, and this played a pivotal role in shaping the linguistic and cultural landscapes of Eurasia. The empire's administration and communication systems required the translation of texts, the use of multiple languages, and the navigation of varied traditions and knowledge systems, which led to the development and institutionalisation of trans-

*The workshop investigates the intricacies of translation and multilingualism in Mongol and post-Mongol Eurasia from the thirteenth to seventeenth centuries*

lation practices that were not only practical but also transformative, shaping the very fabric of Eurasian societies during and after the Mongol period. These linguistic and cultural dynamics did not disappear with the decline of the Mongol Empire but rather continued to flourish and evolve in successor states such as the Ottoman Empire, Timurid Central Asia, and Mughal India, as well as other regions influenced by the Mongols, including China and Korea.

This workshop investigates

the intricacies of translation and multilingualism in Mongol and post-Mongol Eurasia from the thirteenth to seventeenth centuries, analysing how texts, concepts, and knowledge traversed linguistic and cultural divides, as well as identifying the mechanisms that enabled effective communication and comprehension within a multilingual sphere. Viewing translation as an embodiment of knowledge transmission, it delves deeper into the subject of translation as a notion, procedure, and outcome, debating who transferred knowledge, when, and in what settings. Our investigation focuses on identifying what texts were translated and the contexts in which the translations occurred. We are also particularly interested in the functions performed by various languages when composing texts and their reciprocal influence within Eurasia's culturally diverse setting.

## Organisers

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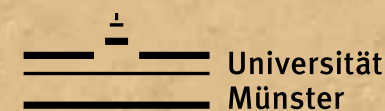
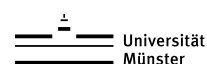
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## Venue

DRK-Tagungshotel-Dunant  
Sperlichstrasse 27  
48141 Münster

## Sponsors



# Translation and Multilingualism in Mongol and Post-Mongol Eurasia

4–6 June 2025  
University of Münster

## Programme

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## Wednesday, 4 June

14.30

### Welcoming Address & Introduction

**Syrinx von Hees** (Director of the Institute of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Münster)

**Philip Bockholt** (Münster) & **Bruno De Nicola** (Vienna)

15.00

### Project Presentations

**Bruno De Nicola** (Vienna): Presentation of NoMansLand

**Philip Bockholt** (Münster): Presentation of TRANSLAPT

16:00 Coffee break

16:30 | Chair: *Syrinx von Hees*

### Panel I: Between Xīng and Yıldız: Astrology and Astronomy across Eurasia

**Kristof D'hulster** (Münster): A Star Travelling the Sky and a Concept Traversing Languages: Exploring Some New Arabic, Persian and Turkish Manuscripts Dealing with *Şigir Yulduz*

**Lingli Li** (Göttingen): *Tarjuma-yi Kitāb-i Bārāhī* and Its Early Indo-Islamic Tradition

**Qiao Yang** (Jerusalem): Beyond Textual Translation: Transmission of Islamicate Astral Sciences to 13th–15th Century China

18:00 Reception

## Thursday, 5 June

09:00 | Chair: *Bruno De Nicola*

### Panel II: Multilingual Chancery Practices 1: Mongols and Ilkhans

**András Barati** (Vienna): Facilitating Governance across Languages: The Role of Multilingualism in the Ilkhanid Chancery

**Márton Vér** (Hamburg): Translating Power: Central Asian Multilingual Practices and the Mongol Chancery Tradition

10:00 Coffee break

10:30 | Chair: *Sara Mirahmadi*

### Panel III: Turko-Persian Encounters in Iran

**Jaimee Comstock-Skipp** (Oxford): Turco-Persianate Linguistic Performativity in the Abū'l-Khayrīd Dynasty

**Ferenc Csirkés** (Birmingham): Translating Shiite Ritual into Turkic in Safavid Iran

11:30 Coffee break

12:00 | Chair: *Nefeli Papoutsakis*

### Panel IV: Bringing the World to the Ottoman Court

**John Curry** (Las Vegas): Speaking Chinese, Translating Persian: Strategies of the Autograph Manuscript of 'Alī Akbar Khaṭāyī's *Book of China*

**Andrew Peacock** (St Andrews): A Compilation of Translations for a Sultan: Cenābī's *Cevāhīrū'l-Ġarā'ib*

13:00 Lunch

14:00 | Chair: *Kerstin Storm*

### Panel V: The Buddha Leaving India

**Chia-Wei Lin** (Lausanne): Multilingual Encounters in the Buddha Biography in Rashīd al-Dīn's *Compendium of Chronicles*

**Yihao Qiu** (Shanghai): When Sweet Dew Fluttered Down, Heavenly Flowers Danced: Of a Panegyric on the Buddhist Miracles Written in Persian

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 | Chair: *Sacha Alsancakli*

### Panel VI: Philosophical Encounters across Language Barriers

**Godefroid De Callataÿ** (Louvain-la-Neuve) & **Laura Tribuzio** (Louvain-la-Neuve): Translating Wisdom. Revisiting the *Mujmal al-Ḥikma* and its Role in the Multilingual Dynamics of Medieval Eurasia

**Aslisho Qurboniev** (London): The Ismaili Translation Movement and the Fate of the Alamut Library

19:00 Dinner

## Friday, 6 June

09:00 | Chair: *Ahmet Aytepe*

### Panel VII: To Edify/Rectify/Stupefy: Why Translate Classics?

**Sara Mirahmadi** (Vienna): *Tarjuma* as a Rhetorical Figure during the Reigns of the Seljuqs and the Ilkhans

**Benedek Péri** (Budapest): Sa'dī's *Gulistān* and Its Three Turkic Translations

**Alberto Tiburcio** (Munich): A Mysterious Translation of a Late Shii Classic: The Patna Translation of Qāzī Nūrallāh Shūshtarī's (d. 1610) *Iḥqāq al-Ḥaqq*

10:30 Coffee break

11:00 | Chair: *Marco Schöller*

### Panel VIII: Multilingual Chancery Practices 2: Yuan and Ming China

**Carol Fan** (Bonn): Knowledge Transmission through Translation: Persian-Chinese Glossaries and Textual Practices in Post-Mongol China

**Yoshiyuki Funada** (Hiroshima): Types and Functions of the Multilingual Official Documents under the Mongol-Yuan Empire: Mongolian and Chinese Bilingual Forms

12:00

**Kristof D'hulster** (Münster): Concluding remarks

13:45 Lunch

15:00 City tour

19:00 Dinner

For more information on the speakers,  
please see the abstracts & bios brochure.